

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BRANDY HATINGS, NO. CIV-S-05-0630 MCE/GGH

Plaintiff,

v. PRETRIAL (STATUS) SCHEDULING ORDER

GTECH CORPORATION,

Defendant.

After reviewing the parties' Joint Status Report, the court makes the following order.

I. SERVICE OF PROCESS

All named defendants have been served and no further service is permitted without leave of court, good cause having been shown.

II. ADDITIONAL PARTIES/AMENDMENTS/PLEADINGS

No joinder of parties or amendments to pleadings is permitted without leave of court, good cause having been shown.

III. JURISDICTION/VENUE

Jurisdiction is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. § 1332.

Jurisdiction and venue are not contested.

1 IV. DISCOVERY

2 All discovery, with the exception of expert discovery, shall
3 be completed by **March 6, 2006**. In this context, "completed"
4 means that all discovery shall have been conducted so that all
5 depositions have been taken and any disputes relative to
6 discovery shall have been resolved by appropriate order if
7 necessary and, where discovery has been ordered, the order has
8 been obeyed. All motions to compel discovery must be noticed on
9 the magistrate judge's calendar in accordance with the local
10 rules of this court.

11 V. DISCLOSURE OF EXPERT WITNESSES

12 All counsel are to designate in writing, file with the
13 court, and serve upon all other parties the name, address, and
14 area of expertise of each expert that they propose to tender at
15 trial not later than **May 5, 2006**.¹ The designation shall be
16 accompanied by a written report prepared and signed by the
17 witness. The report shall comply with Fed. R. Civ. P.
18 26(a) (2) (B).

19 Within twenty (20) days after the designation of expert
20 witnesses, any party may designate a supplemental list of expert
21 witnesses who will express an opinion on a subject covered by an
22 expert designated by an adverse party. The right to designate a
23 supplemental expert for rebuttal purposes only shall apply to a
24 party who has not previously disclosed an expert witness on the
25 date set for expert witness disclosure by this Scheduling Order.

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27 ¹ The discovery of experts will include whether
28 Daubert/Kumho motions are anticipated.

1 Failure of a party to comply with the disclosure schedule as
2 set forth above in all likelihood will preclude that party from
3 calling the expert witness at the time of trial. An expert
4 witness not appearing on the designation will not be permitted to
5 testify unless the party offering the witness demonstrates: (a)
6 that the necessity for the witness could not have been reasonably
7 anticipated at the time the list was proffered; (b) that the
8 court and opposing counsel were promptly notified upon discovery
9 of the witness; and (c) that the witness was promptly made
10 available for deposition.

11 For purposes of this scheduling order, an "expert" is any
12 person who may be used at trial to present evidence under Rules
13 702, 703, and 705 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, which include
14 both "percipient experts" (persons who, because of their
15 expertise, have rendered expert opinions in the normal course of
16 their work duties or observations pertinent to the issues in the
17 case) and "retained experts" (persons specifically designated by
18 a party to be a testifying expert for the purposes of
19 litigation).

20 Each party shall identify whether a disclosed expert is
21 percipient, retained, or both. It will be assumed that a party
22 designating a retained expert has acquired the express permission
23 of the witness to be so listed. Parties designating percipient
24 experts must state in the designation who is responsible for
25 arranging the deposition of such persons.

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All experts designated are to be fully prepared at the time of designation to render an informed opinion, and give their bases for their opinion, so that they will be able to give full and complete testimony at any deposition taken by the opposing party. Experts will not be permitted to testify at the trial as to any information gathered or evaluated, or opinion formed, after deposition taken subsequent to designation.

Counsel are instructed to complete all discovery of expert witnesses in a timely manner in order to comply with the courts deadline for filing dispositive motions.

VI. MOTION HEARING SCHEDULE

All dispositive motions, except motions for continuances, temporary restraining orders or other emergency applications, shall be heard no later than August 7, 2006. The parties are responsible for ensuring that all motions are filed to allow for proper notice of the hearing under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and/or Local Rules. Available hearing dates may be obtained by calling Amanda Souvannarath, Deputy Courtroom Clerk, (916) 930-4207.

All purely legal issues are to be resolved by timely pretrial motions. Local Rule 78-230 governs the calendaring and procedures of civil motions with the following additions:

- (a) The opposition and reply must be filed by **4:00 p.m.** on the day due; and
- (b) When the last day for filing an opposition brief falls on a legal holiday, the opposition brief shall be filed on the last court day immediately preceding the legal holiday.

1 Failure to comply with Local Rule 78-230(c), as modified by
2 this order, may be deemed consent to the motion and the court may
3 dispose of the motion summarily. Further, failure to timely
4 oppose a summary judgment motion² may result in the granting of
5 that motion if the movant shifts the burden to the nonmovant to
6 demonstrate that a genuine issue of material fact remains for
7 trial.

8 The court places a page limit of twenty (20) pages on all
9 initial moving papers, twenty (20) pages on oppositions, and ten
10 (10) pages for replies. All requests for page limit increases
11 must be made in writing to the Court setting forth any and all
12 reasons for any increase in page limit at least fourteen (14)
13 days prior to the filing of the motion.

14 For the court's convenience, citations to Supreme Court
15 cases should include parallel citations to the Supreme Court
16 Reporter.

17 The parties are reminded that a motion in limine is a
18 pretrial procedural device designed to address the admissibility
19 of evidence. The court will look with disfavor upon
20 dispositional motions (except those noted on page 3) presented at
21 the Final Pretrial Conference or at trial in the guise of motions
22 in limine.

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27 ² The court urges any party that contemplates bringing a
28 motion for summary judgment or who must oppose a motion for
summary judgment to review Local Rule 56-260.

1 The parties are cautioned that failure to raise a
2 dispositive legal issue that could have been tendered to the
3 court by proper pretrial motion prior to the dispositive motion
4 cut-off date may constitute waiver of such issue.

5 VII. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

6 The Final Pretrial Conference is set for **November 6, 2006** at
7 **1:30 p.m.** At least one of the attorneys who will conduct the
8 trial for each of the parties shall attend the Final Pretrial
9 Conference. If by reason of illness or other unavoidable
10 circumstance a trial attorney is unable to attend, the attorney
11 who attends in place of the trial attorney shall have equal
12 familiarity with the case and equal authorization to make
13 commitments on behalf of the client.

14 Counsel for all parties are to be fully prepared for trial
15 at the time of the Final Pretrial Conference, with no matters
16 remaining to be accomplished except production of witnesses for
17 oral testimony.

18 The parties shall file, not later than **October 23, 2006**, a
19 joint pretrial statement. The provisions of Local Rules 16-281
20 shall apply with respect to the matters to be included in the
21 joint pretrial statement. In addition to those subjects listed
22 in Local Rule 16-281(b), the parties are to provide the court
23 with a plain, concise statement that identifies every non-
24 discovery motion tendered to the court and its resolution.
25 Failure to comply with Local Rule 16-281, as modified by this
26 order, may be grounds for sanctions.

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1 At the time of filing the Final Pretrial Conference
2 Statement, counsel shall also electronically mail to the court in
3 digital format compatible with Microsoft Word or WordPerfect, the
4 joint pretrial statement in its entirety including the witness
5 and exhibit lists. **These documents shall be sent to:**
6 **mceorders@caed.uscourts.gov.**

7 The parties should identify first the core undisputed facts
8 relevant to all claims. The parties should then, in a concise
9 manner, identify those undisputed core facts that are relevant to
10 each claim. The disputed facts should be identified in the same
11 manner. Where the parties are unable to agree as to what
12 disputed facts are properly before the court for trial, they
13 should nevertheless list all disputed facts asserted by each
14 party. Each disputed fact or undisputed fact should be
15 separately numbered or lettered.

16 Each party shall identify and concisely list each disputed
17 evidentiary issue which will be the subject of a motion in
18 limine.

19 Each party shall identify the points of law which concisely
20 describe the legal issues of the trial which will be discussed in
21 the parties' respective trial briefs. Points of law should
22 reflect issues derived from the core undisputed and disputed
23 facts. Parties shall not include argument or authorities with
24 any point of law.

25 The parties shall prepare a joint statement of the case in
26 plain concise language which will be read to the jury at the
27 beginning of the trial. The purpose of the joint statement is to
28 inform the jury what the case is about.

1 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Local Rule 16-281
2 they are required to list in the Final Pretrial Conference
3 Statement all witnesses and exhibits they propose to offer at
4 trial. After the name of each witness, each party shall provide
5 a brief statement of the nature of the testimony to be proffered.
6 The parties may file a joint list or each party may file separate
7 lists. These list(s) shall not be contained in the body of the
8 Final Pretrial Conference Statement itself, but shall be attached
9 as separate documents to be used as addenda to the Final Pretrial
10 Order.

11 Plaintiff's exhibits shall be listed numerically.
12 Defendant's exhibits shall be listed alphabetically. The parties
13 shall use the standard exhibit stickers provided by the court:
14 pink for plaintiff and blue for defendant. In the event that the
15 alphabet is exhausted, the exhibits shall be marked "AA-ZZ" and
16 "AAA-ZZZ" etc. All multi page exhibits shall be stapled or
17 otherwise fastened together and each page within the exhibit
18 shall be numbered. The list of exhibits shall not include
19 excerpts of depositions, which may be used to impeach witnesses.
20 In the event that plaintiff(s) and defendant(s) offer the same
21 exhibit during trial, that exhibit shall be referred to by the
22 designation the exhibit is first identified. The court cautions
23 the parties to pay attention to this detail so that all
24 concerned, including the jury, will not be confused by one
25 exhibit being identified with both a number and a letter.

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1 The Final Pretrial Order will contain a stringent standard
2 for the offering at trial of witnesses and exhibits not listed in
3 the Final Pretrial Order, and the parties are cautioned that the
4 standard will be strictly applied. On the other hand, the
5 listing of exhibits or witnesses that a party does not intend to
6 offer will be viewed as an abuse of the court's processes.

7 Counsel shall produce all trial exhibits to Amanda
8 Souvannarath, the Courtroom Clerk, no later than **3:00 p.m.** on
9 **November 29, 2006.**

10 The parties also are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16 of
11 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure it will be their duty at the
12 Final Pretrial Conference to aid the court in: (a) the
13 formulation and simplification of issues and the elimination of
14 frivolous claims or defenses; (b) the settling of facts that
15 should properly be admitted; and (c) the avoidance of unnecessary
16 proof and cumulative evidence. Counsel must cooperatively
17 prepare the joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement and
18 participate in good faith at the Final Pretrial Conference with
19 these aims in mind. A failure to do so may result in the
20 imposition of sanctions which may include monetary sanctions,
21 orders precluding proof, elimination of claims or defenses, or
22 such other sanctions as the court deems appropriate.

23 VIII. TRIAL SETTING

24 The trial is set for **December 6, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.** Trial
25 will be by **jury.** The panel will consist of **eight (8) jurors.**
26 The parties estimate a trial length of **seven (7) days.**

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1 IX. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

2 No settlement conference is currently scheduled. A
3 settlement conference may be set at the parties' request. In the
4 event a settlement conference date is requested, the parties
5 shall file said request jointly, in writing.

6 Counsel are instructed to have a principal with full
7 settlement authority present at the Settlement Conference or to
8 be fully authorized to settle the matter on any terms. At least
9 seven (7) calendar days before the Settlement Conference, counsel
10 for each party shall submit to the chambers of the settlement
11 judge a confidential Settlement Conference Statement. Such
12 statements are neither to be filed with the Clerk nor served on
13 opposing counsel. Each party, however, shall serve notice on all
14 other parties that the statement has been submitted. If the
15 settlement judge is not the trial judge, the Settlement
16 Conference Statement shall not be disclosed to the trial judge.

17 After the Final Pretrial Conference, the court will not set
18 a settlement conference. The parties are free, however, to
19 continue to mediate or attempt to settle the case with the
20 understanding that the trial date is a firm date.

21 X. VOLUNTARY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

22 Upon the stipulation of the parties in their **May 20, 2005**
23 Joint Status Report, this matter is hereby referred to the
24 Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program.

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1 XI. MODIFICATION OF PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

2 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16(b) of the
3 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Status (Pretrial
4 Scheduling) Order shall not be modified except by leave of court
5 upon a showing of good cause. Agreement by the parties pursuant
6 to stipulation alone does not constitute good cause. Except in
7 extraordinary circumstances, unavailability of witnesses or
8 counsel does not constitute good cause.

9 XII. OBJECTIONS TO PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

10 This Status Order will become final without further order of
11 the court unless objections are filed within seven (7) court days
12 of service of this Order.

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 DATED: July 11, 2005

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16 MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR
17 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE